

### **ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

An airbag assembly that includes an inflatable curtain and a stiffening member is disclosed. The stiffening member is attached at or near the top end of the curtain. Such attachment may be accomplished via a variety of methods including fasteners, mounting brackets, sewing, inserting the stiffening member into a pocket in the curtain, or by passing one or more of the curtain's attachment tabs through slits located on the stiffening member. The stiffening member is designed to extend along at least a portion of the longitudinal length of the inflatable curtain. In one embodiment, the stiffening member is constructed to resist twisting of the inflatable curtain along a portion of the longitudinal length. In an alternative embodiment, the stiffening member is constructed such that when the inflatable curtain is twisted, the stiffening member deforms the inflatable curtain such that the curtain cannot be installed onto a vehicle interior without first correcting the deformation.

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